

REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 28, 2002 with claims 1-20. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0122403 (hereinafter "Hashem") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,389,019 (hereinafter "Fan").

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,603,766 (hereinafter "Zifroni") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,712,851 (hereinafter "Nguyen").

Claims 1-5 and 15-20 are allowed. Claims 8, 9 and 12-14 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In this response, Applicants amend the claims, and respectfully request reconsideration of the present application.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §103(a) rejections on the ground that the proposed Hashem and Fan combination and the proposed Zifroni and Nguyen combination fail to teach or suggest the particular limitations of respective claim pairs 6, 7 and 10, 11 as alleged, and further are not supported by sufficient objective evidence of motivation.

Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicants have amended the claims to expedite prosecution.

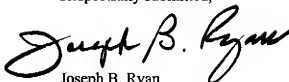
Previously-dependent claims 8, 12 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form and are believed allowable in accordance with the indication of allowable subject matter. Dependent claim 9, which depends from independent claim 8, and dependent claim 14, which depends from independent claim 13, are also believed allowable.

Previously-independent claims 6, 7 and 10 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 1. Dependent claim 11, which depends from claim 10, is also believed allowable.

Accordingly, claims 1-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

There is no fee due in conjunction with the amendments made herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" being more prominent and the last name "Ryan" following in a similar style.

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